[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

yet materialised. As a result thereof, discontentment among the people is mounting up.

I would, therefore, request the Minister of Railways to personally intervene in the matter and do the needful in this regard without further delay.

(v) Need to lay Railway line between Tellicherry and Mysore via Coorg

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Sir, the demand for a Railway line between Tellicherry and Mysore *via* Coorg has been pending for the last nine decades. The first survey on this route was initiated during the British regime by the South Indian Railway Co. This survey had to be abandoned midway due to the outbreak of the First World War. Thereafter, three more surveys were conducted before Independence. All these surveys go to show that this route is economically feasible and strategically important. The erstwhile Mysore State and Madras Presidency had strongly recommended this line. After Independence also, techno-economic feasibility surveys were conducted. By all standards, this railway line will help in developing Kerala and Karnataka. Thousands of trucks and hundreds of buses are plying on this route daily. The great potential for tourism in this part of Kerala and Karnataka attracts thousands of tourists every year. Ports of Calicut, Beypore, Tellicherry and Azhikkal could develop as a result of this line. Coorg, Wynad, Mysore and Cannanore have an abundance of cash crops. Trade and industry will prosper in this region by laying of this railway line. As of now, persons travelling from Tellicherry to Mysore have to take a round about route of about 600 kms. *via* Jolarpet whereas a Tellicherry-Mysore line *via* Coorg will shorten the distance to about 200 kms. Former Railway Ministers including late Lal Bahadur Shastri were convinced of the genuine necessity for such a track.

I request the hon. Railway Minister to give paramount importance to this century. old proposal.

(vi) Need to ensure that the people living below poverty line in Sitamarhi district, Bihar are issued 'red card' to draw ration at subsidised rates under Public Distribution System.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Sir, the Union Government are distributing 10 kilogram wheat to each family living below the poverty line per month under Public Distribution System at half the rates. The State Governments issue 'red card' to the families identified as living below the poverty line. The rules are not being followed properly in issuing 'red cards' in Sitamarhi district of Bihar. The lands are not being issued to the landless agricultural labourers, small farmers, coolies, Rickshaw pullers etc. in rural areas due to which there is a lot of agitation and discontentment among rural people.

I request the Union Government that an inquiry may be conducted about all the red cards issued in Sitamarhi district to make Public Distributions System more effective and popular and to benefit the people living below poverty line and issue order for issuing the red cards to the deprived families.

(vii) Need to sanction ddequate funds for development of Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in Kerala

[English]

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Chirayinkil) : Sir, the Airport of Thiruvananthapuram lies in a very important international air route from the Southern hemisphere to the northern hemisphere. It is one of the safest airports too. It was only in 1991 that the Trivandrum Airport was declared an International Airport, and this was the first airport in India after Independence to be declared international. A good number of foreign airlines are willing to operate from Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandum). Many others would like to use the airport for refueling and other services. But the developmental work of this airport is only at a snail's pace, which has led to the loss of crores of rupees every month. On the other hand, the passenger traffic is increasing even without much amenities due to lack of funds.

I urge upon the Union Government to look into this matter immediately and allocate sufficient funds for the development of the Thiruvanthapuram International Airport without any delay.

(viii) Need to set up an F.M. Radio Station at Manjeri in Kerala

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : There was proposal to set up an FM Radio Station in 'Manjeri', with 3 kv FM Transmitter and sufficient amount has been sanctioned for this project. The formalities of acquisition of land earmarked for the installation of the Radio Station have also been completed by the local people.

It is a matter of serious concern for the people of this region that an FM Radio Station has not so far been set up at Manjeri in Malappuram district of Kerala, which is the most backward area.

It has already been delayed and the Chief Engineer, AIR, Southern Zone should take expeditious steps to